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GENERAL

1. Spaak still available to head OEEC--US Ambassador Murphy in Brussels has been informed by former Belgian Premier Spaak of his determination to "accept the responsibility" of heading the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, providing there is no substantial opposition from within the organization. Spaak expressed the conviction, however, that the British are steadfast in their opposition to his appointment and have now adopted the tactics of "open neutrality" while inducing the Scandinavian countries to spearhead the opposition. In connection with the British contention that heading OEEC would require Spaak's resignation from the Belgian Parliament, Spaak expressed the belief that there is no legal requirement for his resignation. Spaak added that he would like to accept the appointment to head OEEC on the basis of a six-months trial period, during which he "would be on a leave of absence status from Belgian politics."

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2. UK contemplating recognition of China on 2 January--US Embassy Paris reports that French Foreign Minister Schuman has been advised by Foreign Secretary Bevin that the UK Government has decided to recognize the Chinese Communists, preferably on 2 January. Bevin added that the UK Government was also considering extending de facto recognition to the Bao Dai Government in Indochina following the Colombo Conference early in January 1950, provided certain conditions are fulfilled by the French.

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